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Utility Patent Application  
Attorney Docket Number 100696.0011US1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

Inventor: **David Stringer-Calvert et al.**

Requested Examiner: **Zarni Maung**

Serial No: **US national phase of  
PCT/US00/42673**

Art Unit: **2154**

Filed: **December 6, 2000**

For: **Systems and Methods for  
Negotiated Resource Utilization**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The Honorable Commissioner  
of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following as a preliminary amendment. The application is amended herein to the following:


**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. A method of recruiting a resource, comprising:  
establishing a communications link between a requesting computer and a providing computer that is not controlled by the requesting computer;  
the providing computer rejecting a first non-empty set of conditions communicated by the requesting computer; and  
the providing computer providing a second non-empty set of conditions, different from the first non-empty set, as part of a negotiation under which the providing computer provides the resource to the requesting computer.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiation comprises negotiating a compensation rate for the use of the resource.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiation comprises negotiating a subject matter to which the resource will be applied.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiation comprises negotiating a percent of availability of the resource at the providing computer.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiation comprises negotiating another condition under which an additional resource computer provides another resource.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the negotiation includes the requesting computer using the item of ratings information obtained from the directory hosting computer to negotiate with the providing computer.
16. The method of claim 1 wherein the negotiation occurs automatically without any direct human intervention.
18. A directory of computer controlled resources, comprising:  
a plurality of resource descriptions;  
at least one condition for use of each of the plurality of resource descriptions; and  
at least one item of compensation value for each of the plurality of resource descriptions,  
wherein the at least one item of compensation value is used by a requesting computer to negotiate with a providing computer.
20. The directory of claim 18, wherein the condition comprises an authorization for the requesting computer to report to a directory hosting computer an item of ratings information regarding an interaction between the requesting computer and the providing computer.
21. The directory of claim 18, further comprising an item of ratings information that includes at least one of a satisfaction value, a promptness value, a recency value, a reliability value, a type of work value, and the compensation value.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rutan & Tucker, LLP

Dated: 3/20/02

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**REMARKS**

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Fish & Associates, LLP

Dated: March 26, 2002

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**VERSIONS WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Claims**

1. (Amended) A method of recruiting a resource, comprising:  
establishing a communications link between a requesting computer and a providing computer that is not controlled by the requesting computer; [and]  
the providing computer rejecting a first non-empty set of conditions communicated by the requesting computer; and  
the providing [requesting] computer providing a second non-empty set of conditions, different from the first non-empty set, as part of a negotiation [and the providing computer negotiating a condition] under which the providing computer provides the resource to the requesting computer.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [step of negotiating] negotiation comprises negotiating a compensation rate for the use of the resource.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [step of negotiating] negotiation comprises negotiating a subject matter to which the resource will be applied.
6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [step of negotiating] negotiation comprises negotiating a percent of availability of the resource at the providing computer.
7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [step of negotiating] negotiation comprises negotiating another condition under which an additional resource computer provides another resource.
11. (Amended)The method of claim 9 wherein the [step of negotiating] negotiation includes the requesting computer using the item of ratings information obtained from the directory hosting computer to negotiate with the providing computer.
16. (Amended)The method of claim 1 wherein the [step of negotiating] negotiation occurs automatically without any direct human intervention.
18. (Amended) A directory of computer controlled resources, comprising:  
a plurality of resource descriptions;  
at least one condition for use of each of the plurality of resource descriptions; and  
at least one item of compensation value [ratings information] for each of the plurality of resource descriptions, wherein the at least one item of compensation value [ratings information] is used by a requesting computer to negotiate with a providing computer.
20. (Amended) The directory of claim 18 wherein the condition comprises an authorization for the requesting computer to report to a directory hosting computer [another] an item of

